



HM Coastguard



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

RADIO MEDICAL ADVICE

To obtain radio medical advice or assistance in UK waters, Masters and Skippers should first contact HM Coastguard on either VHF DSC, VHF 16, MF DSC or INMARSAT. Urgent calls may be preceded by the urgency signal PAN PAN. Callers will be taken to a duplex VHF channel or simplex MF frequency. Users should avoid using mobile telephones for seeking medical advice or assistance or contacting a hospital direct.

The Coastguard will then connect the caller's VHF or MF to telephone landline to make contact with a doctor at one of the designated UK centres for radio medical advice. Whilst the link is being established, the following basic information will be requested:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | NAME OF VESSEL | 4 | NATURE OF SYMPTOMS / INJURY |
| 2 | TYPE OF VESSEL | | · WHETHER CONSCIOUS AND OR |
| 3 | DETAILS OF PATIENT: | | WALKING |
| | NAME | 5 | POSITION OF VESSEL |
| | SEX | | (to be given as lat and long for SAR |
| | NATIONALITY | | purposes) |
| | AGE | 6 | ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION |
| | | | THAT MAY BE APPROPRIATE |

HM Coastguard will monitor the call and on completion, the doctor will brief the Coastguard as to whether the advice was to treat the patient on board, whether the vessel is to return to port with the patient or whether medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) is recommended. **Coastguard will not initiate a MEDEVAC from a vessel without the approval of a doctor from the MCA's Radio Medical Advice Service.**

Vessels operating outside of UK waters are advised to check their Almanacs or ALRS Vol 1 for TELEMEDICAL ADVICE SERVICES or, if using INMARSAT simply use two digit short code 32 Medical Advice, which most earth stations will connect to a hospital for doctor's advice.